

NEWS.

MR. J. W. BLANKINSHIP has been appointed professor of botany in the Agricultural College of Montana.

DR. DOMENICO SACCARDO, assistant in botany in the university of Bologna, has been advanced to the professorship there.

DR. JOHANNES BEHRENS, bacteriologist, of Carlsruhe, has been appointed to a position under the Imperial Sanitary Bureau at Berlin.

THE BERLIN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES has made a grant of 2400 marks toward the expenses of a botanical expedition to Java by Dr. Paul Knuth.—*Science*.

DR. E. B. COPELAND has been appointed professor of biology in the State Normal School at Chico, California, and began his duties there about February first.

COHN'S *Beiträge zur Biologie der Pflanzen* is to be continued under the direction of Professor Dr. Oscar Brefeld, the successor of Cohn at the University of Breslau. The first part of the eighth volume has recently been published.

A PORTRAIT of the late Professor Teodoro Caruel, for twenty-two years the director of the *Nuovo Giornale Botanico Italiano*, forms the frontispiece of the sixth volume of that journal. In the *Bulletino della Societa Botanica Italiana* 1898: 264 a list of the writings of this eminent botanist is given. The titles number 144.

THE FOURTH annual meeting of the Vermont Botanical Club was held on Friday and Saturday, January 27 and 28, 1899, in Williams Science Hall, of the University of Vermont, at Burlington. The program included a large number of papers, mostly relating to the Vermont flora. The Club seems to be vigorous, enrolling almost 100 members.

THE PUBLISHER of *American Gardening* announces March 1 an offer of three prizes of \$75, \$50, and \$25 respectively, for the best papers on hybridization, of not less than 1000 nor more than 5000 words, to be presented before April 15, 1899. The brevity of both time and space allotted make practically impossible any thorough discussion of this large subject.

ON THE OCCASION of the retirement of Mr. J. G. Baker from the post of curator of the herbarium at Kew, his old colleagues, the members of the

staff, presented him with an address expressive of their affectionate regret. A representation of the elegant bromeliad called *Bakeria tillandsioides*, drawn by Miss Smith, the botanical artist, served to frame the address.—*Gardeners' Chronicle* III. 25:74.

A FIRE which broke out in the physical laboratory on the night of December 25 destroyed the buildings of the University of Geneva, and with them botanical collections of great value. The destruction involved the large Delessert herbarium, Professor R. Chodat's personal herbarium and about 200 drawings, representing the labor of ten years, Huber's Mediterranean plants, and various collections loaned by other herbaria for study. Such losses are irreparable.

AT THE MEETING of the Academy of Science of St. Louis on January 9, 1899, Mr. Hermann von Schrenk presented informally the results of a study of a sclerotium disease of beech roots which he had observed in southeastern New York during the past summer. The sclerotia, which were formed by the webbing together of rootlets by sterile mycelial threads, have apparently no connection with the mycorrhiza of the beech. Mr. von Schrenk's remarks were illustrated by drawings and specimens.—WILLIAM TRELEASE.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS has established a distinct department of botany, which will begin its separate existence with the next college year. The matter is of special interest since, so far as is known at this writing, this is the first independent department of botany in connection with any southern university. Dr. Wm. L. Bray, who recently received his doctor's degree from the University of Chicago, has been in charge of the botanical work at the University for two years, and will be in charge of the new department.

ON FEBRUARY ninth, a fire in Maxcy House, a dormitory of Brown University, caused considerable damage to the botanical department which occupied quarters in the basement. Fortunately the loss was not so serious as was reported in the daily papers. The herbarium and outfit of apparatus are practically uninjured. Many books and charts are damaged by water, and the economic collections, stored above, were entirely destroyed. We hope that the final result will be to the betterment of the department and that the interruption of its work will be brief.

AT THE MEETING of the Academy of Science of St. Louis, on January 23, 1899, a paper by Professor A. S. Hitchcock, entitled "Studies on subterranean organs, Part I, Compositæ of the vicinity of Manhattan, Kansas," dealing with the structure of a number of rootstocks with reference to their environment, was presented in abstract. Mr. C. H. Thompson also spoke of some plants whose flowers originate endogenously. He mentioned several species of *Rhipsalis* in which the much reduced leaves grow on trian-

gular or cylindrical very succulent stems, their axillary buds originating deep down in the soft tissue and sometimes having a passage-way extending toward the surface. In two species of *Rhipsalis* (*R. paradoxa* and *R. floccosa*) there is no such passage-way, and the bud, in developing, breaks through the epidermis. In *Rhipsalis glauca*, a number of accessory abortive flowers were found. *Cuscuta glomerata* was mentioned as the only other plant in which, so far as the speaker knew, subepidermal flowers occur.—WILLIAM TRELEASE.

THE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, located at Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island, will begin its tenth season on Wednesday, July 5, under the direction of Dr. C. B. Davenport, of Harvard University, and regular class work will continue for six weeks. The laboratory will be open for work from July 3 until August 31. Special students may make arrangements for using the laboratory from the middle of June until the middle of September, or later, if desirous of doing so. The general botanical work will be in the charge of Dr. D. S. Johnson, of Johns Hopkins University, and the bacteriology in charge of Mr. N. S. Davis, of Bucknell University.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA is about to organize a new herbarium classified upon ecological lines. This will be supplementary to the large taxonomic collections already displayed. The ordinary sheets and folio covers will be retained, but plants will be segregated upon their ecological characters. Thus, under the general divisions as blocked out in Schimper's new work, *Pflanzengeographie*, a minute subclassification has been devised—for example, under xerophytes, succulents; under succulents, leaf-succulents; under leaf-succulents, various edaphic groups—rock-succulents, salt-succulents, desert-succulents, etc.—and under these the geographical groups, American, European, Asiatic, etc., according to the geographical classification of Schimper, Drude, and Grisebach, as may be found convenient. A similar classification applies to the other ecological groups. It is believed that this organization of a second herbarium containing duplicates of the taxonomic collection and thoroughly adaptational in its classification will prove of great advantage as an aid to instruction.

THE ANNUAL REPORT of the director of the Field Columbian Museum for 1897-8 shows that the department of botany has been enriched by a large amount of material. "The most important collection acquired during the year was the complete herbarium of the late Mr. M. S. Bebb, including his library, letters, and drawings. Through this collection and that of Dr. Schott, obtained the previous year, the herbarium of the museum has been in many important collections projected backward to the middle of the present century. Locally, the herbarium of Mr. Bebb is of great value, as it

represents much of the flora of the western states and about all that of Illinois. The collection of willows is very complete, and, in connection with his notes, drawings, and communicated types, is acknowledged to be the very best. Another collection of Yucatan plants has been received from Dr. Gaumer, consisting of many thousand representatives from old and new localities on the peninsula, which collections will form the basis of a fourth contribution to the flora of that region, and will provide a large amount of valuable duplicate material for exchange. In addition to the above more notable accessions, the following sets have been acquired during the year: Pringle and Palmer's new Mexican material; Anthony's Insular Mexican collection; Lumholtz's Mexican plants; Peary Relief Expedition plants of Labrador and Greenland; Schlechter's African centuries; Heller's Sandwich islands, New Mexican, and Texan plants; Millspaugh's West Virginian and New York plants; Pollock's West Virginian species; Lorenz and Hieronymus' Argentine flora; Allen's plants of the Cascade mountains; Dr. Edward Palmer's Florida collection of 1874; Franchsschi's Grecian plants; Lansing's centuries of the plants of the Lake Michigan basin; and the Curator's plants of Mackinac island."